

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 8, 15 and 19 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 11-14 and 16-20 are allowed and claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 15 include allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

Claim 15 is objected to informalities. Accordingly, claim 15 is amended. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 15 is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,031,587 to Okuyama et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applied art does not teach, disclose or suggest three-dimensionally adjusting the position of the color combining optical system relative to the optical component casing while detecting the combined light, as claimed in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claim 8.

Okuyama relates to an optical member, in which a plurality of LCD's are provided on a prism member 20. The prism member 20 is composed of a plurality of prisms 21-23 with the mutual position of the plurality of prisms being displaced along the contact surface therebetween to adjust the position of LCD's and the length of the optical path.

Accordingly, Okuyama does not disclose the features of the claimed invention. That is, Okuyama does not disclose that the position of the color combining optical system is adjusted while detecting the combined light beam combined by the color combining optical system with a sensor, where the position of the color combining optical system is three-dimensionally adjusted. In contrast, Okuyama's prisms are mutually moved on a plane (i.e., two-dimensionally), which is different from the three-dimension adjustment of the present invention. Further, since Okuyama's prism member has a complicated structure composed of

a plurality of prisms, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to adjust the three-dimensional attitude of the prism member, which may shift the orientation of the optical path itself.

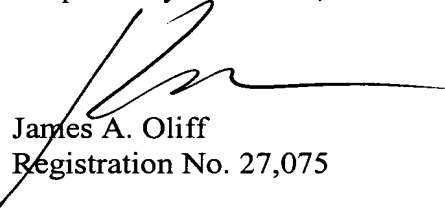
Accordingly, claims 1 and 8 define over the art of record. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 8 is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

Date: May 20, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--